

## **President's Report the Council**

September 2009

This will be my last report to Council as my term of office ends this year. First I would like to thank the Council for its support of my Presidency and for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the work of the ECCE; my thanks in particular to David Burtenshaw and the Executive Committee for their help and support of me in this role. It has of course been an interesting and at times demanding position, and I hope that I have made some contribution in ensuring that the work of the ECCE continues and strengthens. Many faces have come and gone, but throughout it all I have been struck by the commitment of ECCE members, the manner in which people freely give of their time, and the dedication shown in maintaining and raising the standards of chiropractic education and training in Europe. I will say more of the changes I have presided over at the ECCE later in this report.

This year we held meetings of the Executive Committee in November (2008) in Frankfurt, and in April in Paris. We normally hold three Executive meetings a year, but this year the ECU meeting was held in Alghero, Sardinia and we felt it was not cost-effective to hold an Executive meeting at that venue. I would like to note here however, that I consider a minimum of three Executive meetings a year to be absolutely necessary; email and telephone conversations cannot replace face-to-face meetings where discussion with colleagues is so valuable to the business of the ECCE.

Reflecting on this year, ECCE (through the COA) has re-accredited IFEC in Paris for a five year period until 2014. The new college in Madrid (Maria Cristina) also successfully bid for Candidate Status. Next month an Evaluation Team will go to DUT in Durban.

With the increase in colleges applying for accredited status, and the expected increase over the next few years, the ECCE held a Training Day event in Paris in September 2009. We had over 20 delegates from Europe, and spent a full day explaining the ECCE Standards and the role of Evaluation Team members. This is an important part of the quality assurance of the ECCE, ensuring that members of the Evaluation Team are fully informed and able to conduct this important activity in line with the ECCE Standards. My thanks in particular to Thierry Kuster for organising the event and ensuring that we were all well looked after.

We have recently been in contact with ENQA and will seek full membership in 09/10. Arvid Thorkeldsen and I will attend the ENQA AGM in Barcelona at the end of this month, and then we will proceed with the arrangements for our own review.

I believe the ECCE has an exciting future and will play a crucial role in the education and training of chiropractors far into the future. When I started at the ECCE 8 years ago, we undertook a radical review of the ECCE Standards. At the same time, we re-wrote the ECCE Constitution and finalised the Evaluation Team Manual. In 2007, we were successful in our bid for Candidate membership of ENQA, and have now started the process for full Membership in 2010. The ECCE is, in my opinion, a very different organisation from the one I joined 8 years ago. What has not changed however, is the remit of the ECCE as a quality assurance agency for chiropractic education and training and an organisation that facilitates the development and improvement of educational institutions.

I have no doubt that the ECCE will expand as a number of new institutions are accredited by the organisation, and that Tim Raven will very ably lead the ECCE in this next chapter in its development

together with Arvid Thorkeldsen as Chair of COA and Markus Fechner as Treasurer. Again, may I express my gratitude for the opportunity to preside over, and contribute to the ECCE, and may I wish the ECCE and everyone associated with it a successful and prosperous future. As part of the transition, I will remain on the Council for one year as Past President.

JE Bolton, ECCE President

30 September, 2009.